



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN
DELTA CONSERVANCY

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<http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov>

Consideration of Next Steps in the Board's Strategic Planning Process

Requested Action: Appoint standing subcommittee members; adopt subcommittee and workgroup objective and roles summaries; and direct staff to assist subcommittee in forming workgroups.

Background

The Delta Conservancy Board is required by statute to complete and adopt a strategic plan within two years after hiring its executive officer; with the hiring of the new executive officer, the statutory deadline is March 2013 (Public Resources Code Section 32376). On November 3, 2010, the Board appointed a seven-member subcommittee to draft an interim strategic plan as quickly as possible; the interim strategic plan was completed and adopted by the Board in February 2011.

Given the breadth of the Conservancy's statutory mandates, the Strategic Plan subcommittee at its February 2, 2011, meeting discussed the proposal of becoming a standing subcommittee of the Board to focus on completing the strategic plan and addressing other policy issues such as developing its land ownership and management policy. Completing the land management policy could be doubly effective since the Delta Stewardship Council is directed by statute to include in the Delta Plan "recommendations regarding state agency management of lands in the Delta" (Water Code Sec. 85302(h)). The subcommittee also recommended that establishing topic-specific workgroups to develop draft text and policies.

At its February 23, 2011, meeting, the Board approved the proposal to establish a standing Strategic Plan and Policy Committee, along with topic-specific workgroups to assist with drafting text and policies.

The Board has expressed repeatedly its desire to complete the final strategic plan by the end of 2011; to complete the final strategic plan on this accelerated schedule would require hiring consultants. The Delta Conservancy received additional funding to hire consultants to assist in preparing its final strategic plan from the Delta Stewardship Council.

On February 15, 2011, the governor issued Executive Order B-3-11, which places a freeze on hiring consultants. There are limited exemptions to this order, including an exemption to allow an agency could meet its statutory requirements.

Strategic Plan

The strategic plan subcommittee developed the Conservancy's vision and mission statement for the interim strategic plan (ISP). The ISP also describes the Conservancy's guiding principles regarding its key objectives, implementing its programs, and how it operates. The ISP also lists nine key questions that the subcommittee feels needs to be addressed in the final version of the strategic plan.

As part of the final strategic plan process, the next steps include addressing and answering these key questions. The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Act also requires the Conservancy's strategic plan to describe how it will interact with local, regional, state, and federal land use, recreation, water and flood management, and habitat conservation and protection efforts within and adjacent to the Delta. The final strategic plan also shall establish priorities and criteria for projects and programs based upon an assessment of program requirements, institutional capabilities, and funding needed throughout the Delta and to be consistent with five major Delta planning efforts.¹

While the ISP establishes a good foundation upon which the final strategic plan can be built, there is still much work to be done in the next 10 months to meet the Board's requested timeline for the final strategic plan. The Strategic Plan and Policy Committee would oversee progress, review workgroup products, and make formal recommendations to the Board regarding the Strategic Plan and Conservancy policies. Workgroups would develop work products and alternatives for the Strategic Plan or other Conservancy policy efforts.

Strategic Plan and Policy Subcommittee

The strategic plan subcommittee responsible for the interim strategic plan has seven volunteer members: Mike Eaton, chair; Chuck Bonham, Steve Chappell, Darla Guenzler, Robin Kulakow, Jim Provenza, and Ken Vogel. As Jim Provenza mentioned at the Board's February 2011 meeting, the membership of the newly authorized standing Strategic Plan and Policy Subcommittee may change.

The subcommittee met on Friday, March 11 to determine a regular meeting schedule, a subcommittee charter, and work group charters (Exhibit A).

Subcommittee membership may include Board members and liaison advisors.

¹ The five Delta planning efforts are: (1) the Delta Plan, (2) the Delta Protection Commission's resources management plan, (3) the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan, (4) the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act of 1977, and (5) the Habitat Management, Preservation and Restoration Plan for the Suisun Marsh (Suisun Marsh Plan). As of February 28, 2011, three of these reports—the Delta Plan, the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan, and the Suisun Marsh Plan—were as yet not completed.

Proposed Workgroups

Workgroups may be established to focus on specific topics to assist in gathering information and drafting initial text for consideration by the Strategic Plan and Policy Subcommittee and the full Board.

Four initial workgroups have been identified, and others may be established to meet specific needs. The four initial workgroups are:

- Strategic Plan
- Delta Plan
- Conservancy Landownership and Management Best Management Practices
- Conservancy Climate Change policy

Workgroup membership may include Board members, liaison advisors; subject matter experts from the local, state, or federal governments, and other interested parties; Board appointed public members; and technical consultants.

Recommendations

- Adopt subcommittee and workgroup objectives and roles summaries
- Appoint standing subcommittee members
- Direct staff to assist subcommittee in forming workgroups

Contact

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EXHIBIT A: Subcommittee and Workgroup Objectives and Roles Summary

Draft Strategic Plan and Policy Subcommittee Summary

Objective and Role:

The Strategic Plan and Policy Subcommittee oversees and develops the initial strategies and policies for the Conservancy to fulfill its co-equal responsibilities for ecosystem restoration and support of economic sustainability in the Delta. Work products developed through the subcommittee or any of its workgroups will be presented to the full Board for its consideration and adoption.

The subcommittee is established to:

- Oversee and assist staff in completing the Conservancy's first strategic plan, as well as subsequent revisions or amendments to that document
- Create workgroups to assist the subcommittee and staff in sharing and gathering information, drafting text for the strategic plan or other policy documents, and participate in public outreach efforts on behalf of the Conservancy
- Develop and make recommendations regarding Conservancy policies in critical policy and management areas
- Develop and make recommendations regarding the Conservancy Board's response to other Delta planning efforts or legislative initiatives, in a timely and as appropriate

Key Deliverables for 2011:

1. Establish meeting schedule
2. Establish topic-specific workgroups
3. Work with Conservancy staff and consultants, as appropriate, to complete the strategic plan, using the interim strategic plan as a foundation document
4. Review and incorporate information and work products developed by the topic-specific workgroups into Conservancy policies or strategic plan
5. Review and make recommendations regarding state or federal legislation that could impact the Delta Conservancy, as appropriate

Coordination Venues:

Subcommittee Meetings
Board Meetings

How to get involved:

Attend Subcommittee or Board meetings

Draft Strategic Plan Workgroup Summary

Objective and Role:

The Strategic Plan Workgroup is responsible for coordinating with Conservancy staff to complete the strategic plan, using the interim strategic plan as a foundational document.

Work products developed through workgroups will be presented to the Strategic Plan and Policy Subcommittee for discussion, revision, or additional direction, as necessary; ultimately the strategic plan will be presented before the full Board for its consideration.

The workgroup is established to:

- Develop initial answers to the key questions listed in the interim strategic plan, (February 2011) which includes developing criteria for identifying and selecting priority projects and performance measures, and in the instance of partnerships, how credit for efforts is to be shared.
- Participate in public workshops to solicit Delta resident and other interested parties' ideas and comments on the Conservancy's strategic plan.
- Coordinate with local Delta governments, state and federal governments, and other interested parties to identify priority projects or initiatives (e.g., joint permit application processes) with which the Delta Conservancy can lead or assist

Coordination Venues:

Workgroup meetings

How to get involved:

Contact Nancy Ullrey at 916-375-2087 or nancy.ullrey@deltaconservancy.ca.gov or attend Strategic Plan and Policy Subcommittee or Board meetings

Draft Delta Plan Workgroup Summary

Objective and Role:

The Delta Plan Workgroup is responsible for coordinating with Conservancy review drafts of the Delta Plan, develop Conservancy comments to the Delta Plan, and coordinate with other workgroups to develop additional text to submit for inclusion in the Delta Plan.

Work products developed through workgroups will be presented to the Strategic Plan and Policy Subcommittee for discussion, revision, or additional direction, as necessary; ultimately the strategic plan will be presented before the full Board for its consideration.

The workgroup is established to:

- Review drafts of the Delta Plan.
- Develop comments to the Delta Plan.
- Coordinate with other workgroups to develop additional text that may be submitted for inclusion in the Delta Plan, as appropriate (e.g., state land best management practices in the Delta).

Coordination Venues:

Workgroup meetings

How to get involved:

Contact Cindy Messer at 916-375-2090 or cindy.messer@deltaconservancy.ca.gov or attend Strategic Plan and Policy Subcommittee or Board meetings

Draft Land Ownership and Best Management Practices Workgroup Summary

Objective and Role:

The Land Ownership and Best Management Practices Workgroup is responsible for developing the Conservancy's land ownership and best management practices (BMP) including criteria for Conservancy ownership or management of land in the Delta. The BMP and criteria will be included in the Conservancy's Strategic Plan, and may be submitted by the Delta Plan workgroup as additional text for consideration in the Delta Plan.

Work products developed through workgroups will be presented to the Strategic Plan and Policy Subcommittee for discussion, revision, or additional direction, as necessary; ultimately the strategic plan will be presented before the full Board for its consideration.

The workgroup is established to:

- Develop Conservancy's BMP for landownership and management.
- Modify, if necessary, the Conservancy's landownership and management BMP for submittal to the Delta Plan.

Coordination Venues:

Workgroup meetings

How to get involved:

Contact Elisa Reynolds at 916-375-2088 or elisa.reynolds@deltaconservancy.ca.gov or attend Strategic Plan and Policy Subcommittee or Board meetings

Draft Climate Change Workgroup Summary

Objective and Role:

The Climate Change Workgroup is responsible for developing the climate change policy for the Conservancy.

Work products developed through workgroups will be presented to the Strategic Plan and Policy Subcommittee for discussion, revision, or additional direction, as necessary; ultimately the strategic plan will be presented before the full Board for its consideration.

The workgroup is established to:

- Develop the Conservancy's climate change policy.
- Plan a Delta and climate change workshop.
- Modify, if necessary, the Conservancy's climate change policy for submittal to the Delta Plan

Coordination Venues:

Workgroup meetings

How to get involved:

Contact Nancy Ullrey at 916-375-2987 or nancy.ullrey@deltaconservancy.ca.gov or attend Strategic Plan and Policy Subcommittee or Board meetings